

## Time 451

### Outside Of Time

#### Chapter 451: You're Here Too?

Seeing the shadow shaking its head, the Diamond Sect's ancestor's nervousness grew even more intense. His body trembled as he looked at Xu Qing in despair. He felt that he was done for this time.

"Master..."

"Is your body alright?" Xu Qing looked at the Diamond Sect's ancestor and asked softly, his voice filled with concern.

This voice was like a spring breeze to the Diamond Sect's ancestor. His eyes were wide open and his breathing was hurried as he looked at Xu Qing in a daze. He didn't expect that Demon Xu wasn't asking about his overstepping words earlier but was concerned about him.

This caused his emotions to fluctuate intensely, especially after experiencing life and death earlier. The feeling of his heartbeat after experiencing great sorrow and joy caused the Diamond Ancestor to have an indescribable feeling.

He felt that his heartbeat was because of Xu Qing.

This reminded him of the books he had read. Some of the settings were like this. On a certain year, a certain month, and a certain day, the great god finally met the loyal servant who was going to accompany him for the rest of his life.

Under the witness of the wheel of history, this would be the moment when the fate of the loyal servant would change.

The Xu Qing in front of him seemed to be, as the book said, his master in his previous life. In this life, he had gone through countless hardships to meet him. This was fate.

'That's right!' The Diamond Sect's ancestor was excited.

He had never experienced such a feeling before. At this moment, his heart was filled with gratitude, so he hurriedly spoke.

"Master, don't worry. I'm fine. I'm very excited because under the witness of time, I can fight on the battlefield for Master again. In this life, Master, I'll pave the path for you!"

Xu Qing glanced at the Diamond Sect's ancestor in surprise. He felt that the other party's behavior was a little strange. However, when he thought of his experiences on the way, he nodded.

Little Shadow was stunned for a moment. It cast a deep glance at the Diamond Sect's ancestor and remembered what it had said earlier. It planned to say the same thing in the future.

"Your advancement this time shouldn't be a complete success, right?" Xu Qing looked at the Diamond Sect's ancestor.

"Master, although I didn't completely succeed, I can sense that I'm different from before." As he spoke, the Diamond Sect's ancestor raised his right hand. His body shook and a red bolt of lightning instantly appeared in his palm.

However, this lightning was still very weak but its essence was exactly the same as the power of the heavenly tribulation Xu Qing had seen earlier.

"Although it's small... I'm already half of an artifact soul. After fusing it into the iron stick, the power of the iron stick will increase greatly!" The Diamond Sect's ancestor looked at the weak lightning in his hand and felt a little guilty. He hurriedly spoke. After he finished speaking, he swayed and returned to the black iron stick at the side, wanting to display it immediately.

However, the instant his body fused into the iron stick, the black iron stick suddenly trembled.

Cracking sounds rang out as red runes appeared on it. As they continued to permeate the iron stick, the iron stick emitted a terrifying aura as though it had been modified.

There were also streams of red arcing lightning swimming on the iron stick, causing the color of the iron stick to change from black to purple.

Seeing that the iron stick that had followed him for so many years had become extraordinary, Xu Qing was about to take a closer look. However, at that moment, the Diamond Sect's ancestor let out a blood-curdling cry and cracks suddenly appeared on the iron stick.

Three deep cracks appeared on the iron stick, and the iron stick seemed to be on the verge of shattering.

Xu Qing immediately grabbed the iron stick. After his divine sense swept over, his expression turned somewhat ugly. At this moment, the Diamond Sect's ancestor also manifested and carefully spoke.

"Master, the level of this treasure I possess is ultimately too low..."

"It's fine when I was below the Golden Core realm, but by being 70% artifact soul, it is no longer able to bear my strength. Moreover, the power of the red lightning heavenly tribulation isn't something the iron stick can withstand."

Xu Qing held the iron stick and fell silent for a long time.

This item had accompanied him through his childhood. Regardless of whether it was before or after the slums, the scavenger campsite, or the early stages of the Seven Blood Eyes, it had accompanied him.

For countless days and nights, he held the iron stick in his hand and slept.

"Let's stop here. After I return to the sect, I'll think of a way to forge it again and see if I can increase its level." Xu Qing calmly spoke and kept the black iron stick. After that, he took out the mirror magic treasure fragment he had obtained in the small country as a temporary shelter for the Diamond Sect's ancestor.

Xu Qing flicked his sleeve and the shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor instantly hid again.

"It's time to leave." Xu Qing's eyes gleamed. This time, the advancement of the shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor had further increased his combat strength.

As for the specific changes, he was going to return to the magic warship and ponder over them.

After all, this was a forbidden region and he had to be vigilant. Moreover, the energy fluctuations caused from the Diamond Sect's ancestor's breakthrough was huge and it was very likely that they would attract some unknown existences. Hence, Xu Qing planned to leave immediately.

At the thought of this, his body swayed and he headed straight for the exit. He waved his right hand, causing the mountain rocks at the exit to explode. He then rushed out.

However, at this moment, his expression changed and he abruptly looked into the distance.

He could see that in the distant jungle, a group of strange giants that were over 100 feet tall were roaring and chasing wildly. Every one of these giants emitted extraordinary fluctuations, and there were more than ten of them that were comparable to Golden Cores.

Two or three of them even gave Xu Qing the feeling that he had encountered six Heavenly Palaces Golden Cores, causing his eyes to narrow.

What made Xu Qing gasp was the roar that echoed through the sky from even further away. This sound was intimidating and seemed to be able to suppress everything. It was extremely terrifying.

The color of the sky changed, wind surged, and the ground quaked.

It was as though an existence was struggling, wanting to escape from its location.

As for the target of those giants... it was none other than the captain.

Xu Qing only took a glance and knew that the captain must have done something infuriating again. Hence, he sighed and turned to run rapidly.

The captain also saw Xu Qing from afar and was pleasantly surprised.

"You're here too? What treasure appeared here? Let me see." The captain shouted.

"Don't worry, it's not that easy for that big fellow to struggle out. Although it has awakened, the place it sleeps in is a little complicated. It's a quagmire with only half its head exposed. I saw some remaining restrictions of the myriad races."

As the captain spoke, a monstrous boom echoed in the distance. Cracks appeared in the ground and an even more violent aura erupted.

Amidst the violent wind, a portion of the restrictions seemed to have shattered, so the struggle became even more intense.

As the violent wind formed, resistance actually appeared in all directions, causing Xu Qing and the captain's speed to involuntarily slow down, while the chasing giants became even faster.

The distance between the two sides was rapidly shortening, and the captain was about to be caught.

"F\*ck, don't tell me it's really going to break free." The captain's expression changed and he sped up crazily, chasing after Xu Qing.

Xu Qing didn't even turn his head but his right hand grabbed backward through the air, allowing the captain to borrow the momentum.

At the next instant, the captain's speed was enhanced even more and he arrived behind Xu Qing.

However, the resistance here was very strong. The violent wind blew in his face and even the breath of the giants behind him could be smelled by Xu Qing. This scene gave Xu Qing a headache and he couldn't help but speak.

"Captain, what did you do this time?"

"It's nothing much. I caught up to you earlier and saw that you were fine. After that, I smelled something good, so I went to take a look."

"In the end, guess what I saw? I saw a group of fools worshiping a fruit. I naturally had to educate them about such a foolish act, so I took the fruit away."

"And then?" Xu Qing looked at the captain.

"That's it." The captain had an aggrieved expression, as though he didn't understand why the other party was so angry when he had only taken a fruit.

Xu Qing didn't believe him and looked at the captain's mouth.

The captain blinked and spoke in a low voice as he ran.

"There's really nothing else. It's just that before I left... I saw half of their ancestor's head outside the quagmire. There was a wooden sword stuck in his head that looked very good, so I took a bite."

"It didn't taste good!" The captain coughed.

Xu Qing fell silent.

"Aiya, two bites, two bites. I only took two bites!" The captain felt guilty and quickly spoke. He ran with all his might. Because he was running too fast or ate too much, he couldn't help but burp.

Xu Qing sighed. He felt that the captain should have eaten a lot, so he didn't ask anymore. His cultivation base erupted and he moved forward at full speed. However, very soon, the giants caught up to them.

A cold glint flashed in the captain's eyes. He quickly performed a series of hand seals and waved his hand fiercely behind him. Immediately, a blue light erupted from his body, forming a sea of light that enveloped and froze wherever it passed.

The poison palace in Xu Qing's body also swayed and emitted a poisonous intent that rapidly spread behind him. Wherever it passed, everything would rot.

In an instant, screams and cries rang out from behind them. A portion of the giants were frozen, while all the giants were poisoned. For a moment, roars echoed and the pursuit slowed down.

However, at that moment, a furious roar rang out from afar. As the struggle grew even more intense, a layer of fog rose from there. It was like a breath that rumbled toward Xu Qing and the captain.

It arrived in an instant. Under the ruthless collision, Xu Qing's Infinite Crown shone. However, he still spat out a mouthful of blood as his bones shattered.

The captain also coughed out blood and his body was riddled with holes. The two of them had shocked expressions and each used their extreme speed to escape crazily.

Fortunately, their location wasn't the core of the Sword Forbidden Region. It could only be considered close to the inner regions. Hence, with their respective speeds, they finally rushed out of the Sword Forbidden Region six hours later.

They didn't dare to stop at all on the way. All their strength was focused on speed. The instant they rushed out, roars filled the sky from the depths of the Sword Forbidden Region. One could see a huge figure standing there.

This figure was too tall. Even though it was very far away, one could still see that after it stood up, its head seemed to want to touch the sky. It emitted a terrifying sense of oppression that enveloped the surroundings.

Vaguely, it was as though its nose... had collapsed and withered a little, as though it had lost its nose.

As it roared angrily, the giant lifted its feet and was about to chase after the captain and Xu Qing.

The expressions of the two changed drastically.

However, at this moment, threads that contained the rhythm of Dao suddenly erupted from the Sword Forbidden Region, forming a seal that enveloped the giant's body, preventing it from struggling. It could only roar continuously.

Even though the roars were very far away, they still caused Xu Qing and the captain to continuously vomit blood. Their bodies even showed signs of shattering. The two of them rushed out of the Sword Forbidden Region and ran all the way to the magic warship.

Xu Qing panted heavily. He looked at the giant's nose and then turned his head to cast a deep glance at the captain.

The captain coughed and changed the topic.

"Damn, it really struggled out. This big guy must have been a general under the Sword Emperor back then. It's so powerful."

On the magic warship, Yanyan was dumbfounded when she saw this scene.

She seemed to be unable to understand how these two people caused such a huge commotion in the Sword Forbidden Region.

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### **Chapter 452: Life Is Difficult**

The instant they stepped onto the magic warship, Xu Qing and the captain worked together to control the magic warship to speed into the distance.

The two of them felt their hearts race as they glanced behind at the forbidden region from time to time.

They could see the giant struggling intensely in the forbidden region. The black clouds churned and lightning bolts swam in it. However, no matter how much the giant struggled and roared, the large net spreading from the forbidden region restricted it tightly.

Xu Qing still felt lingering fear when he saw this.

The captain exhaled and sighed with emotion.

"It is just like I guessed, the Sword Forbidden Region is a place of imprisonment. This forbidden region was once known as Spirit Sound. Later on, after it was suppressed by all the races in Fenghai County, Spirit Sound became Imprisonment."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought. He had previously felt that it was strange because Old Master Seventh had said that this forbidden region was called Spirit Sound, but the captain said Sword Forbidden.

As the magic warship whistled, Yanyan looked at the disheveled Xu Qing and the captain and hesitated for a moment before speaking.

"Brother Xu Qing, didn't you go to recover your vitality?"

"Also, Eldest Senior Brother, didn't you go to protect Brother Xu Qing?"

"How... did you cause such a huge commotion?" Yanyan's heart was also palpitating. Previously, when she saw the giant appear from afar, her mind and even her body were shocked by the pressure brought about by the terrifying giant.

When Xu Qing heard this, he looked at the captain expressionlessly. His gaze mostly landed on the captain's nose.

The captain blinked but didn't feel awkward at all. Instead, he waved his hand and threw a fruit that he had eaten more than half of to Xu Qing.

"Junior Brother, Senior Brother left this for you. I forcefully endured it and didn't eat it all. Sigh, I'm just like this. The first thing I think of when I encounter good things is you, Junior Brother."

Xu Qing took it. Just as he held it in his hand, his expression changed. He lowered his head and looked over.

He could sense that this fruit contained a very peculiar aura.

This aura didn't affect his body much but after taking a sniff, Xu Qing felt his spirits lift. He immediately understood that this item had a considerable nourishing effect on the soul.

"I don't know what this thing is either. I've never seen it before. I just saw a group of silly creatures worshiping it, so I snatched it and took a bite. I discovered that it's very helpful to the soul." Thinking of the stimulation and harvest this time, the captain was beaming with joy.

Xu Qing didn't mind that the captain had taken a few bites of this fruit and directly put it into his mouth and swallowed it. To him, who had grown up in the slums, he had even snatched the food a dog ate.

After swallowing it, a wisp of coolness quickly flowed through his entire body. Finally, it fused into his sea of consciousness, causing it to shake. It vaguely seemed to have been strengthened by a lot and expanded a little.

All of this was a manifestation of the strengthening of his soul. Hence, Xu Qing licked his lips and looked at the captain, wanting to ask some questions about the giants.

"Captain..."

"No more left!" Before Xu Qing could finish speaking, the captain immediately became vigilant. After he finished speaking, he seemed to sense that his reaction was a little too much. He blinked and coughed.

"Little Qing, let's go to the Sword Holding Court next. Let me tell you, the Sword Holding Court is a good place."

Xu Qing was puzzled and carefully sized up the captain.

Xu Qing felt that there was a problem with the other party's previous words. Hence, his gaze narrowed slightly as he spoke softly.

"Eldest Senior Brother, actually, if I didn't give you the 30% blood, my advancement this time might have been safer. However, you're my Eldest Senior Brother..."

The captain let out a long sigh and waved his hand, sending another fruit flying toward Xu Qing.

After Xu Qing caught it, he spoke softly.

"Life is hard."

"Eldest Senior Brother, the world is unpredictable. Perhaps one day, you might not have a Junior Brother like me. If I can't travel with you in this world, I hope that the moment you stand at the peak of the sky, you can take a look at this world for me."

The captain was depressed and muttered a few words, thinking to himself that this Little Qing learned so quickly. He sighed again and took out a tree branch from his storage bag, tossing it to Xu Qing.

On the tree branch, there were eight to nine fruits.

Xu Qing took a deep breath. He originally thought that the captain would at most have six to seven fruits, but he didn't expect this fellow to casually give him a tree branch.

"Eldest Senior Brother, don't tell me you dug up the whole fruit tree and moved it away?"

The captain coughed and hurriedly shook his head to indicate that he didn't.

Yanyan blinked and suddenly spoke.

"Life is difficult..."

"Stop, stop, stop!" The captain had a helpless expression on his face. He took out three more fruits and handed them to Yanyan.

Yanyan beamed with joy and quickly arrived beside Xu Qing, handing the fruits to him.

"Brother Xu Qing, this is for you."

This scene stunned the captain for a moment and he became even more depressed.

Xu Qing didn't want Yanyan's fruits.

As for how many more the captain had, Xu Qing didn't care. After he ate these eight fruits, he could already sense a huge change in his sea of consciousness. It was becoming more tenacious and at the same time, his soul was twice as strong as before.

A feeling of bloatedness surfaced in his mind.

Xu Qing understood that this was the limit of his soul at this stage. Hence, on the way, Xu Qing sat down cross-legged and began to stabilize his breakthrough.

Just like that, time flowed by. Very soon, half a month passed. The sound of river water flowing could be heard from below the magic warship. Looking over, it was the intersection of the vast Immortal Enrichment River's mainstream and the Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain.

The river section here was surging like an ocean, traversing through the canyon of Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain, dividing this mountain range into two. There were also many waterfalls that looked like paintings.

This was the first time Yanyan had seen this vast painting and she was immediately attracted by it.

Xu Qing had been here before when he was on the river patrol mission with the captain. Hence, he retracted his gaze after taking a look and took out the shroud cloth that was filled with immortal Qi.

This was a fragment of a Taboo magic treasure, and looking at it, the complete Taboo magic treasure should be an entire shroud.

The gray cloth was stained with black blood, causing it to be filled with an ominous feeling. However, the immortal Qi was extremely dense. After Xu Qing checked, he once again felt as though his palm had been pierced.

A strange glint appeared in Xu Qing's eyes. There were all kinds of uses of Taboo fragments. Perhaps it was because they were broken pieces, it was very difficult to detect them through divine sense and had to be tested to know of their peculiarities.

Among them, for example, the black wooden block and the small mirror had more obvious uses, so it was very easy to sense them. However, the ability of this cloth strip was a little complicated.

After Xu Qing studied it, he suddenly activated the protection of his Infinite Crown. When he touched the cloth again, he discovered that the invisible thorns of this item ignored the protection and still pierced into his palm.

"Ignoring the protection?" Xu Qing's mind stirred as he thought of the red woman's evil ghost scythe.



A long time later, Xu Qing took out the dagger embryo the captain had given him. This black weapon embryo emitted a sharp light and the eye formed by the patterns on it emitted a strange aura.

Originally, Xu Qing planned to return to the sect and find something suitable to use as a dagger handle. However, now that he looked at the cloth strip, he had a new idea.

After some thought, Xu Qing felt that he could give it a try.

Hence, he wrapped the cloth around the end of the dagger again and again, forming a simple handle.

After doing this, Xu Qing held it in his hand. The piercing pain was still intense but Xu Qing's recovery was very fast and he was good at enduring pain. Hence, his expression was as calm as ever.

His right hand that was holding the dagger was as firm as iron pincers.

He then gently felt the blade of the dagger with his left hand. The feeling of being pierced surfaced once again, as though the ability of the cloth had been transmitted to the dagger.

"As expected!" Xu Qing suddenly spoke.

"Yanyan, activate your protection."

Yanyan had been paying attention to Xu Qing. After hearing Xu Qing's words, she didn't hesitate at all. She immediately activated the protective jade slip her grandmother had given her. The instant it formed a layer of defense, Xu Qing moved.

The dagger in his hand instantly got close. The moment it came into contact with the Yanyan protective barrier, the dagger actually ignored the protective barrier and directly pierced through, landing on Yanyan's neck.

Yanyan didn't dodge at all. She trusted Xu Qing extremely.

At the next instant, Xu Qing retracted his right hand. Just as he was feeling satisfied, the captain saw everything and spoke in surprise.

"This cloth strip is extraordinary."

Xu Qing nodded and continued to study it. After confirming that the might of these two items would increase greatly when combined, he looked at his shadow.

Xu Qing felt that there would definitely be a day when his shadow would be exposed. Since that was the case, he had to make preparations first.

Hence, under Xu Qing's divine sense, a wisp of shadow spread out without leaving a trace and gathered on the eye of the dagger.

As it fused into it, the eye looked normal at first glance but upon closer inspection, it seemed to be alive.

If you stared at it, you would feel that it was staring at you too.

'I need to think of a mnemonic chant that can be used as a prelude when the shadow fusion secret technique is displayed.'

Thinking of the chant, Xu Qing felt that he wasn't good at it. Hence, he sent a divine sense thought to the Diamond Sect's ancestor.

Very soon, the Diamond Sect's ancestor, who was familiar with books, thought of a paragraph.

"Shadow Prisoner's Restriction, Devil's Decree."

"Immortal art breaks the spirit, heaven and earth is my fate."

Xu Qing mumbled inwardly. He kept feeling that these four phrases were a little strange but he couldn't think of anything better for now. Hence, he didn't use them immediately. This made the Diamond Sect's ancestor feel some regret.

These four phrases contained some of his little schemes.

'Little Shadow, Little Shadow, who asked you to fight with me? Hmph, did I study for nothing all these years? I'll let you see my methods later.'

When the magic warship left the main river section of the Immortal Enrichment River and headed north at full speed, the color of the ground gradually changed. It was no longer black but white snow.

The temperature here plummeted. In fact, several days later, they encountered a blizzard.

Large snowflakes fell and covered the ground. At the same time, some snow also piled up on the magic warships in the sky, as though they were covering the magic warships with white clothes.

The world ahead was a blur due to the wind and snow. This sudden snow grew larger and larger until it became a blizzard.

The whimpering sound of the wind echoed in all directions, and the coldness filled the world with the snowflakes.

Xu Qing wasn't unfamiliar with snow.

In the early winters, the wind and snow were a test of his life. However, it was rare for him to see such heavy snow.

"We've finally arrived at the northern icy plains. At this speed, we'll be able to reach the end of the Yinghuang Province in two months at most, which is where the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar is located."

"That place is also where the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holding Court is located." The captain's gaze was filled with anticipation as his voice echoed amidst the whimpering of the wind and snow.

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#### **Chapter 453: Grand Affairs Life Lantern**

When Xu Qing heard this, he lifted his head and looked at the blurry world in the distance.

"Little Qing, the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar is the weapon of the Nanyue Ghost Emperor. Many people in the Yinghuang Province know about this but according to the information in the Alliance, this weapon seemed to have been thrown out by the Ghost Emperor before he died."

"Therefore, there have always been rumors that the Ghost Emperor used his weapon to suppress a certain mystery back then."

"In reality, in the past few years, the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar shook many times. Some people speculate that it's caused by the thing that was suppressed, while others speculate that the Ghost Emperor is about to revive. When I saw the Sword Holding Court attacking Three Spirits Suppression Mountain, I think there's a high chance that the latter is true."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought.

"Eldest Senior Brother, did the Sword Holding Court chose their base in the Yinghuang Province to be here to suppress this weapon?"

"That's right. After all, that Ghost Emperor... is too powerful. The Sword Holding Court naturally attaches great importance to him. However, this has nothing to do with us at the moment. What we need to think about now is becoming Sword Holders." The captain's expression was filled with anticipation.

"The date of this Sword Holder Selection is about to arrive. I've already inquired properly. Any human below the age of 25 can participate, irrespective of their cultivation base."

"After we reach the range of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar, we don't have to hide our identities anymore. The Sword Holding Court has a rule that nonhumans are forbidden from entering the range of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. Also, we can spar with the humans here but we can't kill them."

Xu Qing nodded.

"As for the process of the assessment, I went through many dossiers in the Alliance and have a thorough understanding of them. In the past, the assessment was divided into two stages."

"The first stage is to obtain a spot to participate in the Sword Holder trial. This spot needs to be obtained through competition. Generally speaking, only 10% of the total number of people will be given a spot, so the competition is very intense.

"The second stage is the true Sword Holder trial. The number of Sword Holder recruited each time will not exceed ten when there are more qualified candidates, and only three to five when there are fewer.

"Therefore, none of the Sword Holders is simple."

"So little?" Xu Qing was a little surprised. Back then, on Three Spirits Suppression Mountain, he had seen many Sword Holders. He originally thought that there would be many people who passed the assessment every time.

As though he had guessed what Xu Qing was thinking, the captain explained.

"More than half of the Sword Holders are actually from other provinces. Only a portion of them are native cultivators. This is the rule of the Sword Holders."

"If we succeed in the assessment and become Sword Holders, we will also have to face the possibility of being transferred to another province. However, this is a little far away. This is because every new

Sword Holder has to head to the Sword Holder Palace in Fenghai County within the specified time to obtain the secret arts and inheritances of the Sword Holders."

"In the end, according to the Sword Holder's own situation, they will compete for the posts. Moreover, as a Sword Holder, they have the right to take the human race's ferry."

"The seven counties of the human race are separated by many large regions. Other than powerful cultivators, ordinary people won't be able to finish traveling them in their entire lives. They can only rely on the super ferry to travel between those regions."

"Very few sect disciples have the qualifications."

Xu Qing listened attentively. He felt that becoming a Sword Holder would be very helpful to him when he went out in the future.

Yanyan was the same. She also wanted to become a Sword Holder because this way, she could always stay by Brother Xu Qing's side.

A month passed.

While the captain continued to explain various things, their magic warship continued to fly north, getting closer and closer to the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

During this month, Xu Qing finally figured out the abilities of the shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor after they advanced.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor's ability had an all-round increase. Overall, it had already reached the level of a Golden Core with a Heavenly Palace.

This was because his advancement hadn't been completed. Xu Qing felt that after the other party slowly transformed into an artifact soul, he should be more powerful.

At the same time, the Diamond Sect's ancestor's grasp of lightning was also very different from before. The lightning he emitted and his speed had advanced by leaps and bounds. In addition, he also had another trump card.

That was the red lightning of the heavenly tribulation.

There was an intent of extermination and domineeringness in this lightning that could kill someone of a higher stage with just one strike.

As for the shadow, with the Diamond Sect's ancestor's translation, Xu Qing smoothly understood everything.

Other than being the secret technique to transform Xu Qing into a pure body cultivator, the shadow still had its previous ability to devour other people's shadows to control them. Moreover, the speed of devouring was even faster.

Other than that, its eyes also had new abilities.

This ability was crushing destruction.

In reality, the shadow in the past also had this ability but its strength was too weak, so Xu Qing didn't care. Now that it had advanced, the might of this crushing destruction technique had increased greatly, so it became obvious.

The shadow could form a crushing destructive force through the blinking of its countless eyes. When it erupted with all its might, even Xu Qing was a little solemn.

All of this allowed him to clearly realize that his current combat strength was already worlds apart from before. Moreover, he had many more methods of fighting than before.

This allowed him to form more battle tactics and face more complicated situations and even more cunning and bizarre enemies.

"Even without using poison and shadow secret technique, I can kill anyone below the five palaces"

"After using the shadow secret art, I can suppress those below six palaces."

"If I use poison, even if it's six palaces... I can still fight them. Although the difference between one palace is extremely huge in the Golden Core realm and I'll definitely be heavily injured, the enemy will definitely die under my poison!"

"If all my secrets are used..." Xu Qing fell silent. He didn't wish for that to happen because this meant that the enemy was extremely powerful.

While Xu Qing was weighing his combat strength, the snowstorm that had lasted for a month finally ended. The distant world became clear. The light from the sky scattered down and the ground looked like it was paved with bright crystals.

This place was no longer just snow. There were icy plains and snow mountains.

The undulating snow mountains were reflected in Xu Qing's eyes. He could vaguely see some black embellishments on the mountain occasionally. They were protruding rocky mountains.

The wind became even colder and blew onto Xu Qing's outstretched hand, as though it wanted to freeze his flesh and blood.

This place no longer had mortal countries. With such a harsh climate, other than cultivators who could resist it, mortals would instantly freeze to death here.

"Comfortable." The captain's shout rang out.

Xu Qing looked over.

The captain stood at the bow of the ship and his body was outside the ship's barrier. He faced the cold wind and stretched out his arms in the wind. His face was filled with comfort, as though the cold here was nothing to him.

All of his spells emitted an icy intent, and here, his abilities would clearly be enhanced even better.

"Little Qing, I've wanted to come here for a long time. This place is much more comfortable than the sect."

The captain laughed loudly. Just as he had a satisfied expression, his eyes suddenly narrowed as he turned his head to look at the sky in another direction.

At the same time, Xu Qing also sensed it and turned his head to stare.

Yanyan didn't notice anything but she instinctively looked over. However, in her eyes, there was nothing in the distant sky. In Xu Qing and the captain's eyes, though, there were dozens of huge flying ships whistling over from afar.

These flying ships looked like willow leaves. They were slender and at the same time, the bow and stern of the ship were curved upward. They looked very strange. Moreover, their entire bodies were made of crystal and spirit stones that shone brightly under the sunlight.

They seemed to be guarding a ship in the center.

This ship was blue in color and stood out from the crowd. There was a long streamer on it, like a flag in the wind. It was very conspicuous and the words 'Grand Affairs' were embroidered on it.

Xu Qing and the captain had seen such ships on the Immortal Enrichment River before. It was none other than the ships of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect.

There were figures in white standing on these dozens of ships of various sizes. There were men and women among them, and all of them exuded an otherworldly aura. This was especially so for the clouds rising under their ships, making them look like immortals.

On the blue flying ship, there was also a person standing.

This person was a youth. He wore a blue robe that was different from the others, reflecting his slender body like a pine tree.

His fair skin was like jade and his brows were sharp like peaks.

He stood at the bow of the blue ship with his hands behind his back. His expression was indifferent, as though his noble status and peerless aptitude already put him at the peak of the life.

Hence, there were naturally not many things in this world that could move him. Their flying ships whistled past Xu Qing's magic warship without pausing at all.

This was because they represented the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. This was because the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect was the number one force in the Yinghuang Province other than the Sword Holding Court which was the orthodox force of the human race.

As such, other forces naturally had to give way to the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect.

As they flew over, the airwaves created by this group of flying ships spread in all directions, impacting Xu Qing's magic warship, causing it to sway and have no choice but to move aside.

Xu Qing and the captain narrowed their eyes.

The disciples of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect didn't even turn their heads to look at them. As the whistling sound echoed, they flew further and further away.

Their target was clearly the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

"How impressive!" The captain raised his brows and looked at the flying ships that were already far away.

"I'll go and find some information later and see what good things the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect has."

The captain was clearly a little dissatisfied with these people's domineeringness.

"That person is strong," Xu Qing slowly said. He was talking about the youth in the blue Daoist robe. When he glanced over earlier, he could faintly sense the fluctuations of a life lantern on the other party.

This was the second person he had seen who seemed to have a life lantern other than Saintly Star.

"Zhang Siyun, the Dao Child of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. Back then, this person was a figure who firmly suppressed Saintly Star in the Yinghuang Province. He can be considered the number one heaven's chosen among the current generation of disciples in the entire Yinghuang Province.

When he was in the Foundation Building realm, he left Saintly Star far behind. After he reached the Golden Core realm, he left Saintly Star in the dust."

"It's said that not only does he have a life lantern, but he also has an emperor-level cultivation art. He even mastered nine strikes of the Extreme Heaven Saber and cultivated it to an emperor-level seed."

"According to the Alliance's information, although he has four Heavenly Palaces, his combat strength should have reached the level of six palaces or even higher."

"Little Qing, have you taken a liking to his life lantern? Why don't we find an opportunity to kill him?"

Xu Qing shook his head. The captain blinked and chuckled.

"However, he's not like Saintly Star. If he dies, the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect will definitely be extremely furious. The old man probably won't be able to withstand it."

### [Outside Of Time](#)

#### **Chapter 454: Absolute Beginning Separation City**

The captain's words were filled with reminders.

If someone who didn't understand the captain heard this, they would think that the captain was worried that Xu Qing wouldn't be able to hold it in and snatch the other party's life lantern, causing huge trouble.

However, when these words landed in Xu Qing's ears, he clearly understood the meaning behind the captain's words.

This was telling him that there was no problem with attacking, but he couldn't leave anyone alive and his plan had to be meticulous. Also, don't forget to bring him along.

However, Xu Qing didn't have any thoughts of snatching it. It wasn't because of the other party's background but because they didn't have any conflict with each other and there was no reason to kill.

Hence, Xu Qing shook his head.

"I can't beat him."

The captain raised his brows with a spurious smile.

"You're hiding from me too? Little Qing, your current combat strength should be comparable to the five palaces, right?"

Xu Qing didn't say anything and looked into the distance. What he was looking at was the end of the north. It was the location of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and also the direction to leave the Yinghuang Continent.

"Eldest Senior Brother, do you know where Mount Morning Glow is?" Xu Qing asked softly.

"Mount Morning Glow? Let me think..." The captain was stunned and pondered.

"I think I've seen it on a map of Fenghai County before. Mount Morning Glow isn't far from the county capital. Legend has it that it was once a sleeping place of the immemorial sun."

Xu Qing nodded and didn't speak anymore.

Time passed again. The following journey was very smooth. During this time, they also encountered some flying ships with different shapes. They had the same goal and all kinds of totems or flags that represented their forces were erected on them.

The cultivators inside were all young and their cultivation levels were extraordinary.

The recruitment of the Sword Holding Court was a huge matter for the human forces in the entire Yinghuang Province. The heaven's chosens from various sects would continue to rush here to participate in the assessment.

After all, after becoming a Sword Holder, regardless of whether it was in the sect or outside, their status would be different. Moreover, they would have a better future and opportunities.

Very soon, a month passed.

From afar, Xu Qing, who was standing on the deck, finally saw that astonishingly huge pillar.

The ten-thousand-foot-thick Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar was completely black and was carved with countless runes, emitting an indescribably vast might.

Upon closer inspection, each of those runes contained Dao charm, as though a world was forming on it.

It was the same for the totemic carvings. Countless mutated beasts and figures were carved, and every one of them emitted a terrifying pressure.

All of this was enough to make anyone who saw it involuntarily feel a sense of reverence toward it.

This heaven-reaching pillar pierced into the clouds and its end was not visible. One could only vaguely see a palace standing in the sky.

The palace suppressed the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.



However, this suppression couldn't stop the monstrous battle intent emitted by the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. Countless beings had died to it, and their deaths formed a terrifying resentment to linger on it.

However, under the intimidation of the battle intent, this resentment couldn't spread out at all. It could only transform into waves of soundless wails that echoed in the minds of everyone who stared at the pillar.

Xu Qing's mind trembled. What made his gaze even deeper was that the Ghost Emperor Mountain in his sea of consciousness was swaying slightly.

It was as though it was attracted by the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. At the same time... this Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar actually shook weakly.

Xu Qing took a deep breath but he wasn't surprised. Previously, at the Three Spirits Suppression Mountain, the Ghost Emperor's figure reacted the same way. It was just that the reaction now was slightly stronger.

The captain stood beside Xu Qing and sighed with emotion.

"Later generations analyzed the Ghost Emperor and speculated that this ferocious weapon should be his main weapon. It accompanied him in conquering the world and killing in all directions. As for the Ghost Emperor's origins, they are extremely mysterious. No one knows which race he came from. They only know that he was born at the wrong time and achieved Dao after the god's fragmented-face arrived."

"I wonder who his enemy was. It is only known that he fled here on his deathbed and threw the weapon, causing it to fall into the ice plain. He then closed his eyes at the seaside and chose to pass away while sitting."

"Someone said that the place he passed away faced the south and he was looking at the sea as though he was waiting for something."

The captain's voice grew softer.

Xu Qing sensed the Ghost Emperor Mountain in his sea of consciousness and looked at the face that was still a little blurry but was becoming more and more similar to his own. He fell silent.

His eyes looked at the ground around the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

The ground was covered in snow and there were countless circular tents surrounding the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar, forming a special city.

There were no mortals here. They were all cultivators from everywhere, with most of them being rogue cultivators. Moreover, they were all humans and there were no nonhumans.

The Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar didn't have any requirements for those who stayed near it. Regardless of whether they lived or cultivated, they could exist here for as long as they wanted to.

There was only one prerequisite. The cultivator had to be a human.

The Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar was mystical to begin with. After comprehending the battle intent it released for a long time, it would form a spirit mark in one's mind, providing a certain boost to one's cultivation.

In addition, the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar also contained some inheritances. As long as one was a human, they could climb it. If they got an opportunity, they could comprehend the inheritance.

That was why more and more human rogue cultivators gathered here, and it was lively here.

Many sects that had already arrived had set up tents and erected flags that belonged to their sects. This was especially so for the few large factions in the Yinghuang Province.

Among them was the camp of the Eight Sects Alliance.

The entire city was filled with markets and bustling with people.

Most of the people were looking up and discussing.

Xu Qing noticed this scene and also saw the figures on the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

There were about a hundred people scattered at different heights.

Some were climbing, and some were meditating on protruding runic totems. The person at the highest location among them was a youth wearing the Daoist robe of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect.

This person wasn't the Dao Child of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect but one of the heaven's chosen under the Dao Child.

Xu Qing vaguely remembered seeing this person among those on the flying ships of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect a month ago. Right now, the other party had reached 5,000 feet high. This seemed to be his limit and he couldn't continue anymore. In the end, he let go and landed.

The moment he landed, a blue light emitted from the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar, heading straight toward him.

The ecstatic heaven's chosen grabbed the light. At the next instant, the blue light transformed into a lump of blue fog.

Xu Qing didn't know what that was but this scene caused waves of exclamations to ring out from the crowd below the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

"He was actually bestowed with the fog Qi. This Qi is greatly beneficial to one's vitality!"

"The higher you climb, the greater the chance of being bestowed!"

"Although it's not a cultivation art inheritance, the bestowment of the fog Qi is also extremely good."

Xu Qing's eyes revealed a strange glint. He looked at the blue fog in the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect's hand and felt that it was quite peculiar.

"This is how the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar is. The higher you climb, the greater the chance of obtaining benefits." The captain also looked over, his eyes revealing anticipation.

"The Alliance's intel had uncovered some intriguing information about the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. It seemed that over the years, the pillar had produced inheritances and emitted strange energies—some provide vitality, some help in strengthening pills, and some help in refining artifacts."

"There's also this Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar itself. By comprehending the battle intent on it here, it can form a battle spiritual mark in the sea of consciousness. This is a good thing. It possesses extraordinary lethality and the difficulty to obtain it isn't high. For example, I just took a glance at this Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and I vaguely feel that I'm about to comprehend it. Moreover, this can add points in the Sword Holder assessment."

Xu Qing nodded seriously and decided to comprehend it.

Seeing Xu Qing's serious expression, the captain was amused. In reality, comprehension of this spiritual mark was extremely difficult. However, in order to emphasize his senior brother status, he deliberately said that it was easy.

This way, when Xu Qing comprehended slowly, it would make him, Chen Erniu, look very amazing.

With such thoughts in mind, the three of them got closer and closer to the territory of the Absolute Beginning Separation City.

Xu Qing put away the magic warship.

The three of them landed in the city formed by tents and walked toward the Eight Sects Alliance's encampment.

There were many people here now, so the fee for renting a place to stay was definitely not cheap. Hence, since there was a sect base that didn't cost money, they naturally had to go there.

After passing through the crowd, Xu Qing and the other two finally arrived at the base of the Eight Sects Alliance.

This place wasn't far from the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and had about a hundred tents. When Xu Qing and the other two arrived, the concealment on their bodies also dissipated. Their appearance immediately attracted the attention of the disciples of the Eight Sects Alliance.

It was fine with the captain and Yanyan, but Xu Qing's identity was different.

As the only person in this generation of the Alliance who enjoyed the treatment of a Dao Child, he was famous in the Eight Sects Alliance. Hence, as soon as he walked over, many disciples of the Alliance cupped their fists and greeted him.

There were over a hundred disciples from the Eight Sects Alliance who came this time. These people were mostly in the Foundation Building realm and there were few Golden Cores. Most of them couldn't become Sword Holders. They came here because their ages matched the requirement, so according to the sect's arrangements, they came to take the test as training.

Among them, there were also many disciples from the various peaks of the Seven Blood Eyes. Even the mute was among them. When he saw Xu Qing and the captain, he bowed respectfully.

He quickly ran over and followed beside Xu Qing, consciously guarding the surroundings for Xu Qing.

Very soon, the three of them settled down. Through their conversation with the Seven Blood Eyes' disciples, Xu Qing knew that the people leading the team from the Alliance this time were his ancestor, Xue Lianzi, and Yanyan's grandmother. At the same time, the sect masters of the Bizarre Hunting Sect and the Heavenly Treasure Sect were also present.

As for his master, he didn't come.

However, the ancestors and the sect masters went to the Sword Holding Court after they arrived. It was unknown what they went to talk about but when Xu Qing learned of this, he waited and didn't go greet them.

Yanyan felt a little guilty. After all, she had secretly run out of the Seven Blood Eyes. When she heard that her grandmother was here, she was about to say something to Xu Qing. However, as the voice transmission jade slip vibrated, Yanyan sighed.

"Brother Xu Qing, my grandma knows that I'm here and asked me to look for her. I'll go and coax her first. Otherwise, it'll be difficult for me to escape in the future."

The captain heaved a sigh of relief at the side. Clearly, he felt very at ease when he found out that Purple Mystic Fairy didn't come.

"The ancestor is here? He must be here for me. Although this old fellow is usually solemn, he admires me incomparably. This time, he should be here to persuade me to return to the sect. Little Qing, you are still not there yet. You're too clumsy with your words. Remember to return the debt to me later. I can consider teaching you some ways to make the old fellows happy."

The captain spoke proudly.

Xu Qing blinked when he heard this.

"Eldest Senior Brother, you are right. I suggest you pay a visit to the ancestor first. Perhaps the ancestor knows something about the test. This will be very beneficial for us when we participate later on."

"That makes sense!" The captain's eyes lit up. Just as he was about to leave, he stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Xu Qing suspiciously.

"Little Qing, it's rare to see you talking so much. There's something wrong."

Xu Qing looked into the captain's eyes with a surprised expression.

The captain looked at Xu Qing with a suspicious expression. Just as he was about to speak, a cold snort suddenly rang out from the distant sky. This voice was like a large bell chime that spread in all directions, causing the wind and clouds to surge and the world to tremble.

"The location of the Sword Holding Court is a forbidden area for all nonhumans."

"Those from nonhuman races who step in will be killed!"

## Outside Of Time

### **Chapter 455: Zi Xuan's Letter**

As the voice echoed through the entire city, countless humans looked at the sky.

A figure walked out of the clouds at the end of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

This person was a middle-aged man. He wore an official's uniform and a blue hat inlaid with silver. He wore purple scale gloves on his hands and carried a large sword wrapped in black cloth on his back that only revealed the hilt.

As he walked out, three huge abysses that were like vortexes appeared behind him.

Any one of these three abysses was like a natural phenomenon. At the same time, each of them seemed to contain a secret repository.

Vaguely, mournful roars and cries rang out from the three secret repositories. It was as though vicious terrors were suppressed there, emitting waves of terrifying fluctuations.

This person raised his right hand and punched out at the distant sky.

As he attacked, the three secret repositories behind him erupted, spewing out multicolored light that filled the sky, forming countless flying swords that densely spread out between the heavens and the earth, and formed a torrent.

Every sword inside emitted a soul-stirring force, as though it could tear through the sky and shatter the void. At this moment, they all charged into the distance.

At the same time, a furious roar rang out from the distant sky. A blurry figure appeared in the sky, as though it had been hiding previously. But under the energy of the sword torrent, it couldn't continue hiding.

This was an extremely ugly ferocious beast.

To be precise, it was more like a huge maggot. Its body, which was ten thousand feet long, was covered in mucus and emitted an unpleasant stench.

It also had two tentacles on its head.

Each of the tentacles had a head on them, a man's and a woman's. Their skin was green and their eyes were red. The furious roar earlier came from them shouting at the same time.

Its tail area was curled up and there was a head on it as well.

It was of an old man. At that moment, his expression changed and he quickly spat out black fog.

The fog spread out and enveloped the surroundings of the maggot, increasing its retreating speed.

However, it was still too late. At the next instant, countless flying swords pierced through the ugly ferocious beast.

No matter how it blocked, it was useless. In an instant, its body collapsed under the killing power of the swords and cut into pieces.

Only the three heads stirred up more black fog and fled into the distance.

However, it was obvious that this was wishful thinking. The moment the ferocious beast's body collapsed, the Sword Holder in the official uniform took a step forward. His speed was so fast that he instantly got close to the heads. As he lifted his right hand, countless flying swords gathered, forming a longsword that shone with green light.

As the sword landed, the woman's head collapsed.

With the second strike, the man's head exploded.

The third sword was swung by the Sword Holder. Immediately, this sword flew out and transformed into a large green flood dragon. With a roar, it swallowed the old man's head.

The world fell silent. All the cultivators on the ground were shocked.

"Recently, my Sword Holding Court was ordered to suppress the Three Spirits Mountain and capture Nether Fairy. Therefore, some demons and ghosts came here to probe."

The middle-aged man calmly continued.

"Then, I'll say the rules of my Sword Holding Court again. Only humans can step into this land!"

The middle-aged man raised his right hand and performed a series of hand seals, pointing at the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. In an instant, the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar trembled and a monstrous battle intent erupted.

It carried the intent to exterminate and domineering baleful aura as it rumbled in all directions.

The sky in a radius of 5,000 kilometers stirred up intense fluctuations, and it was the same for the ground. This battle intent carried divine sense and rapidly swept past all the cultivators.

It was as though it was screening and shocking all the cultivators who were paying attention to this place. At the same time, popping sounds echoed in the city and outside the city. Hundreds of people in the city suddenly exploded and died instantly.

There were also seven to eight places in the sky that let out mournful cries.

After everything was over, the world was clear.

The middle-aged man didn't even turn his head as he walked toward the sky. He stepped into the clouds and disappeared without a trace.

The ground was silent. It was only after a long time that gasps and exclamations rang out. Xu Qing also took a deep breath. The captain at the side was the same.

Earlier, the divine sense had also swept past them. Even though he knew that he was a human and there wouldn't be a problem, Xu Qing's heart still skipped a beat under the cover of the divine sense. What shocked him even more was the domineeringness of the Sword Holding Court.

The middle-aged man in the official uniform was clearly at the Spirit Repository Realm and not the Nihilism Realm. However, the instant he walked out and attacked, the auras of the leading ancestors of the various sects who had arrived in the city seemed to be suppressed.

"What suppressed the ancestors wasn't this person's cultivation base but his identity."

The orthodox of the human race, one of the Upper Mystic Five Ministries, the Sword Holding Court!

It was only after around fifteen minutes that the cultivators in the city recovered. Their eyes revealed an intense glint. Many people couldn't help but look at the end of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

That was the base of the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holding Court.

This demonstration by the Sword Holding Court caused most of the disciples from the various sects and forces to have a strong yearning for the Sword Holding Court, especially the captain. He even began to fantasize about becoming a Sword Holder.

Although Xu Qing was also tempted to become a Sword Holder, what he valued more was the tremor from the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar earlier.

The moment the pillar trembled earlier, Xu Qing clearly felt that the Ghost Emperor Mountain in his sea of consciousness was also trembling. At the same time, dozens of runes actually floated on the Ghost Emperor Mountain.

These runes emitted intense battle intent. After Xu Qing sensed them, he fell into deep thought.

"Could this be the battle spirit mark that the captain mentioned? From the looks of it, it's indeed very easy to obtain."

Xu Qing thought about it but he wasn't too sure if these runes were the spiritual marks the captain had mentioned.

He felt that he could take them out.

He lifted his hand and with a thought, one of the dozens of marks instantly disappeared from his sea of consciousness and appeared in his palm.

The light shone and the battle intent spread out even more intensely, giving Xu Qing the feeling that this rune could be used as a spell and possessed a certain level of lethality.

"Eldest Senior Brother, is this the battle spirit..." Xu Qing turned his head and looked at the captain. Before he could finish asking, the captain who was dreaming suddenly looked with wide eyes.

"Battle spirit mark? When did you comprehend it? This thing is very... simple. Not bad, not bad. It can add points." The captain was stunned but he quickly reacted and pretended to be relaxed.

"When the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar trembled earlier, they appeared in my sea of consciousness." Xu Qing nodded as some doubts rose in his mind. The captain's reaction made him feel that something was amiss.

And at times like this, something was really fishy.

The captain coughed and suppressed the envy in his heart as he laughed.

"Little Qing, your comprehension ability isn't bad but it's still a little inferior to mine. Actually, I also succeeded in comprehending this thing just now, so you have to remember not to be arrogant. One

spiritual mark is nothing. Did I say anything when I comprehended five? Because we need to comprehend nine spiritual marks to add points!"

Xu Qing sensed the dozens of battle spirit marks in his sea of consciousness but didn't speak. He guessed that the difficulty of comprehending these spirit marks shouldn't be what the captain had said earlier.

"Alright, you can continue comprehending. I'm going to look for the ancestor." The captain wanted to get away from Xu Qing and find a place to comprehend the spirit marks. Xu Qing had succeeded in comprehending one so easily. This made him feel a lot of pressure.

This was especially so when he thought of how he had said earlier that this comprehension was easy. If he didn't succeed in the short term, he would really be shooting himself in the foot.

Seeing that the captain had left, Xu Qing also planned to study these spirit marks. Hence, he walked toward his residence.

However, the two of them had just taken a few steps when the captain suddenly started. He recalled Xu Qing's words and noticed the use of the plural term.

This caused his eyes to widen as he abruptly turned his head.

"Wait, Xu Qing, you said 'they' earlier?"

Xu Qing stopped in his tracks.

"You... How many did you comprehend?" The captain asked carefully.

Xu Qing glanced at the captain and waved his hand. Immediately, more than 30 spirit marks flew out and rapidly circled in his hand, continuously emitting waves of battle intent.

The captain was stunned.

"These all appeared just now?"

"Yes, captain, you were right. It's very simple." Xu Qing blinked.

The captain didn't want to speak anymore. He felt so tired.

He silently retracted his gaze and quickly left without turning his head. He made a decision. He was going to head to the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and start comprehending until he comprehended 40 spirit marks.

"40 isn't safe. I need to comprehend 60!"

Looking at the captain's figure, Xu Qing was in a good mood. He then turned and walked toward his residence.

Very soon, he arrived and made arrangements in the surroundings. Only then did he sit down cross-legged and study the spirit marks.

He knew why so many spirit marks had appeared at once. This matter was directly related to the existence of the Ghost Emperor Mountain. After all, to a certain extent, the two sides came from the same source.



Just like that, during Xu Qing's research, time flowed by and three days passed in the blink of an eye.

On the third night, Huang Yikun arrived.

After he arrived, he unwillingly handed Xu Qing a jade slip and left after leaving a sentence.

"The ancestor asked me to give it to you!"

Huang Yikun's ancestor was naturally Purple Mystic Fairy.

Xu Qing hesitantly picked up the jade slip and fell silent for a long time. His divine sense fused into it and instantly, Purple Mystic Fairy's lazy and enchanting voice appeared in his mind.

"Kid, do you miss Big Sister?"

Xu Qing sat silently.

"I like the gift you gave me before you left very much."

Xu Qing looked in the direction of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. He felt that the captain should have gone there.

"I also read the letter you wrote to me. It is not obvious normally but your words are so bold when you write... saying that you want to be strong and don't want me to listen to groundless rumors? It's not easy for us to see each other frequently, so you wanted me to reply to you by letter? I got Huang Yikun to send it to you."

Xu Qing's eyes abruptly widened.

"Also, seeing that you pleaded for mercy for Chen Erniu in your letter and even promised me so many things, let's forget about Chen Erniu. I won't bicker with him for the time being, but don't forget what you promised."

Xu Qing's breathing was hurried.

"I'll listen to you this time and not go to the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. In that case, help me take care of the people from the Mystic Nether Sect."

"Then, come back as soon as possible... As for the way you asked me to address you in the letter, little kid, you're quite good. However, this still can't be done. It will depend on your performance in the future."

The veins on Xu Qing's forehead bulged. He was silent for a long time. After calming his emotions, he took out the bamboo slip and found the captain's name on it. He then ruthlessly crossed out the question mark behind it.

### [Outside Of Time](#)

#### **Chapter 456: As if the Dead Returned**

At that moment, beside the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar, the captain was squeezing through the crowd, wanting to find a better location to comprehend.

He hadn't succeeded in comprehending the spirit marks in the past three days. He felt that the previous location was inauspicious, so he planned to get closer.

However, before he could find a good location, the captain suddenly had a bad premonition.

"My intuition is very accurate. Something's wrong..." The captain fell silent and carefully recalled what he had done recently.

"The eye I left on the Ghost Emperor Mountain was discovered?"

"Has my informant from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect been exposed?"

"The clone that was secretly placed on the Three Spirits Suppression Mountain has been found?"

"The person I bribed in the Litu Sect betrayed me?"

"The Flame Phoenix knows that I'm going to steal its nest?"

"Has my enemy in the Corpse Forbidden awakened?" After pondering for a while, the captain suddenly thought of something.

"Purple Mystic Fairy replied?"

The captain had a headache and didn't know what was wrong. However, this premonition was very strong. Hence, he left the crowd warily.

He even concealed his aura and changed his appearance. However, he still felt uneasy. He directly left the vicinity of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and found a remote tent at the edge of the city. He endured the pain and spent some money to carefully comprehend the spirit marks.

However, he felt that it was still not safe. Hence, he performed a series of hand seals and activated some secret art, concealing him further.

Not long later, Xu Qing arrived. He searched the vicinity of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar but couldn't find any traces of the captain.

As for the shadow's search, it was only limited to a certain range. This place was too big. Unless Xu Qing walked around the entire city, he wouldn't be able to search accurately.

After failing to find anything, Xu Qing turned and left.

Very soon, several days passed. Seeing that everything was normal, the captain gradually relaxed. Although the concealment still existed, his body and mind were mostly immersed in comprehension.

However, Xu Qing didn't give up. In these few days, other than comprehending the battle intent of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and increasing the number of battle spirit marks in his sea of consciousness, he spent the rest of his time strolling around this city formed by countless tents.

There were many cultivators here, so many large and small markets were formed. The items sold there were all kinds of strange.

During these few days when Xu Qing was searching for traces of the captain, he saw a lot and also bought some poisonous grasses.

However, every time he went out, he would change his appearance and conceal himself.

In these few days, he had already received seven to eight challenges from the heaven's chosen disciples of the various forces in the Yinghuang Province.

Many people already knew of his arrival. As someone who enjoyed the treatment of a Dao Child in this generation of the Eight Sects Alliance, his reputation had actually spread throughout the various forces.

After all, he had two life lanterns and an emperor-level cultivation art, and killed Saintly Star. All of this caused him to have a high status in the hearts of this generation of disciples from the various forces in the Yinghuang Province.

Now that the Sword Holder's assessment was about to begin, most of those people who thought that their strength was good wanted to suppress the heaven's chosen of large sects to attract the attention of the Sword Holding Court and gain points.

Hence, not only was Xu Qing challenged, but the other heaven's chosen of the Alliance were also frequently challenged. It was the same for the other large forces. Every day, there would be battles.

Only one person was unchallenged. This person was the Dao Child of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect, Zhang Siyun. He was also known as the number one person of this generation in the Yinghuang Province.

It was rumored that he already possessed the combat strength of six palaces at such a young age, causing the disciples of the various sects to not dare to challenge him.

He didn't stay in the city either. Instead, he went deep into the icy plains. It was said that he wanted to make use of the environment here to temper his spells.

Compared to him, Xu Qing's combat strength was at most three to four palaces in the eyes of outsiders. Hence, he naturally became the best target for cultivators who were inferior to the Dao Child of the Grand Affairs.

Among the people who challenged him, there were also people from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. Xu Qing wasn't interested in such boring challenges at all.

At that moment, he was walking in a large market. His gaze swept across the stalls, wanting to see if there was any special poisonous grass.

There were many cultivators here. Other than the local rogue cultivators, there were also some human sect disciples from everywhere. It was very lively.

Very soon, Xu Qing stopped in his tracks and his gaze landed on a stall.

The items sold here were alchemy and weapon refinement materials. There were also some herbs.

Among them, the five-line golden insect grass was considered a very good poison-melting conversion item in the pharmacopeia. Its medicinal properties were special and after it was dug out, it needed metal Qi to preserve it.

He walked over. Before he got close, he heard someone beside him talking about him.

"Have you heard? Li Ziliang from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect has already accepted nine challenges and won all nine of them. He is a Golden Core with four palaces. Now, in the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect, his limelight is second only to their Dao Child."

"This person is indeed extraordinary. Some time ago, he reached a height of about 5,000 feet on the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. It's said that that's not his limit."

"He was born at the wrong time. If the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect didn't have Zhang Siyun, this person might have been able to become their Dao Child."

"I heard that he has already issued three challenges to Xu Qing, the quasi-Dao Child of the Eight Sects Alliance. That Xu Qing is clearly afraid. Most people from small places have such habits and don't dare to accept challenges. Recently, various forces have been laughing and chatting about this."

When Xu Qing heard this, he expressionlessly turned his head and glanced over. The ones discussing this matter were three disciples from small sects who were attached to the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. Their cultivation levels weren't high and they were only in the Foundation Building realm.

Xu Qing had seen many such people.

Their cultivation levels were clearly ordinary but they were very enthusiastic about evaluating experts. It was as though they could find their sense of existence by making bad comments.

Xu Qing's gaze swept past the three people's faces. After he retracted his gaze, he walked to the stall and pointed at the Five-line golden insect grass.

The stall owner was a bald cultivator. He was blind in one eye and his remaining eye emitted a cold glint. He lifted his head and swept his gaze across Xu Qing. With a wave of his hand, he swept up the herb and handed them to Xu Qing.

"This medicinal herb costs 2,000 spirit stones."

Xu Qing held the grass in his hand and checked it. After nodding and handing over the spirit stones, he kept the insect grass and asked.

"Do you have more?"

"Yes!" The vendor's eyes lit up. He then took out a small clay bottle and carefully opened it. After that, he took out three stalks of golden insect grass and handed them to Xu Qing.

However, Xu Qing's gaze landed on the small clay bottle.

Generally speaking, the bottles used by cultivators to store items were either jade or metal. There were also wooden ones but it was very rare for them to be formed purely from clay.

Nourishing the five-line golden insect grass required gold Qi. This caused Xu Qing to be a little surprised. After taking a closer look, he discovered that there was a faint sharp aura emitted from this small clay bottle.

"It contains metal Qi?" Xu Qing pointed at the small bottle.

The bald cultivator swept his gaze across Xu Qing and grinned.

"Fellow Daoist, this isn't ordinary metal Qi. It's the imperial metal Qi emitted by the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. I obtained it by luck when I climbed the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar."

"This Qi can only be contained with clay. Generally speaking, it can be used to upgrade artifacts once. I don't have a suitable magic artifact now, so I'm using it to nourish the insect grass for the time being."

"You want to buy it? This thing is very expensive. 500,000 spirit stones!"

The bald cultivator licked his lips. He could tell that the person in front of him should be a sect cultivator. Previously, he didn't bargain when buying the insect grass. He was definitely wealthy.

Xu Qing fell silent. He had heard a little about the Qi emitted by the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar from his captain. It also contained the so-called imperial metal Qi.

This reminded him of his iron stick.

Hence, after pondering for a moment, Xu Qing took out a jade slip and assumed an inquiring posture. After that, he shook his head.

"I've asked around. Many people have sold this Qi over the years. I can buy it for 50,000 spirit stones. I won't buy it if it's beyond that."

The baldy had a displeased expression. Recently, he had been in dire need of spirit stones to buy alchemy pills and was preparing to break through the three fires Foundation Building realm and step into the Golden Core realm. He felt that Xu Qing was rich, so he named the price.

However, Xu Qing's counter offer made him feel like he was joking. Hence, just as he was about to shake his head, Xu Qing glanced at the bald man and suddenly spoke.

"I still have a Palace Nourishing Pill." As Xu Qing spoke, he took out a pill bottle. This was something he had bought before he advanced to the Golden Core. However, he didn't need to use it. Its value was also about 300,000 spirit stones.

This pill was somewhat helpful in advancing to the Golden Core. Moreover, only large sects sold it and rogue cultivators couldn't buy it directly.

The bald cultivator's expression froze. After taking it, he opened it and took a sniff. His expression changed slightly and he hesitated for a moment before nodding.

"Deal!"

As he spoke, he passed the small clay bottle to Xu Qing and immediately packed up his stall and left.

Xu Qing held the small clay bottle and kept it after shaking it. He planned to return to the encampment and see if it was effective on the iron stick.

At that moment, as he was walking toward the encampment, waves of commotion suddenly rang out from the direction of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

Xu Qing lifted his head. On the towering Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar, someone had climbed over 5,000 feet.

This person was none other than the heaven's chosen from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect he had seen when he arrived here. He was the Li Ziliang that those people were talking about earlier. He had challenged Xu Qing several times but Xu Qing ignored all of them.

At that moment, he had surpassed his previous limit and reached 6,000 feet, causing the discussions of the cultivators near the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

Huang Yikun and some of the heaven's chosens from the Alliance could only reach a height of about 2,000 feet.

Right now, regardless of whether it was the Eight Sects Alliance or the other forces, Li Ziliang who had climbed the highest and suppressed the disciples of the various sects, was instantly in the limelight.

Xu Qing's expression was as calm as ever as he retracted his gaze.

He didn't care about this and left the market. When he was getting closer and closer to the Eight Sects Alliance's encampment, Xu Qing saw a Dao altar.

There were many Dao altars in Absolute Beginning Separation City. Most of them were places that talked about cultivation methods and were set up by the Sword Holding Court.

Occasionally, a Sword Holder would come and personally give a lecture. Although it wasn't for free, it was only a symbolic fee of one spirit stone.

At that moment, there were dozens of rogue cultivators outside the Dao altar. There weren't many of them, so what they were talking about wasn't cultivation methods but the Dao of plants and vegetation.

From afar, a hoarse and ancient voice rang out from the Dao altar.

"Green Lotus Flower Dew, also known as Green Lotus Dew. It's the flower bud of the water lily family. Coupled with the fragrant water obtained by using a special heating method, it has the function of calming the lungs and treating coughing of blood..."

"Goldturn grass, also known as..."

Xu Qing stopped in his tracks. He was extremely familiar with these two sentences. It was the records of medicinal herbs in the herb books, word for word.

With a thought, he turned his head.

With this glance, Xu Qing's entire body trembled and his eyes revealed a bright light.

He saw a thin old man.

This old man wore a gray robe. Although there were many wrinkles on his face, his eyes were bright and filled with vigor. There was a deepness in them, as though they contained wisdom. His voice was pure and gentle.

He was similar to Grandmaster Bai, but wasn't him.

Xu Qing's eyes dimmed a little. He stood there and listened for a while before leaving silently.

## Outside Of Time

### **Chapter 457: Abnormality**

The sky in the north turned darker earlier than in the south, and it was the same for dusk.

It came and went quickly, giving way to the dark night.

This was because the white snow didn't like sunlight and the sky hated the dusk.

Very soon, the sky was pitch-black.

However, the long night couldn't compare to longing...

Xu Qing stood in front of his tent in the encampment and stared at the dark night, looking in the direction of the Nanhuang Continent.

This place was too far from the Nanhuang Continent.

"I wonder how Chen Feiyuan is doing and how Ting Yu is now. With them around, there won't be a lack of offerings in front of Teacher's grave." Xu Qing mumbled and walked inside the tent.

After sitting down, he sighed softly and closed his eyes.

After a long time, the waves in his heart calmed down. Only then did he take out the small clay bottle.

"I hope it will be useful." Xu Qing placed the small clay bottle to the side and took out the black iron stick that had accompanied him for many years. His right hand gently stroked it.

He knew every detail of this iron stick.

The teacher in the slums had once said that the older one was, the more nostalgic they would be. Xu Qing felt that this wasn't absolute because he wasn't old but he was still very nostalgic.

Regardless of whether it was people or things, as long as they had helped him before, he wouldn't forget them.

With such emotions, Xu Qing opened the small clay bottle. He then placed the black iron stick into the bottle and even spread out his perception to fuse into the iron stick to sense the changes inside.

Very soon, Xu Qing sensed traces of golden fog coming from the small clay bottle.

This fog drifted and entered the black iron stick. However, most of it circled around the iron stick and slowly nourished it.

This process wasn't short. A full night passed. When the sky outside was starting to brighten, all the golden fog disappeared.

All of them had fused into the iron stick.

Xu Qing took out the iron stick and held it in front of his eyes to observe it carefully. He looked at every inch of it seriously. After he examined it fully, a smile appeared on his face.

The cracks in the black iron stick were mostly repaired overnight. Most importantly, the material itself seemed to be a little different from before.

It was as though it had been refined again.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor had more say on this matter. Hence, when Xu Qing summoned him, the Diamond Sect's ancestor also sensed the iron stick seriously and finally spoke with certainty.

"Master, I can sense that the material of the iron stick is changing. Just like when a cultivator advances, it is also advancing. If this continues, it will undergo a transformation. It will transform from an ordinary treasure to a magic artifact. Also, because it has been enhanced by me before, once it becomes a magic artifact, its might won't be inferior to a spirit artifact at all!

It can even be said that it's a spirit artifact but it needs more nourishment."

Xu Qing nodded as a look of contemplation appeared in his eyes.

The price of this imperial metal Qi was very expensive but the simplest method was indeed to purchase it. However, Xu Qing felt that there shouldn't be much of it sold outside.

"I'll look for it first. Also, I need to make a trip to the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar in the near future to see if I can obtain this imperial metal Qi."

Xu Qing made up his mind and carefully kept the iron stick. He then closed his eyes and meditated.

Very soon, the sky lit up. Xu Qing opened his eyes and walked out, searching for the metal Qi in the markets.

It was indeed as he had judged. Although this peculiar Qi from the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar had some supply, the quantity was indeed very small. Xu Qing searched for a day but only managed to collect three wisps of Qi.

According to his analysis, if he wanted to complete the advancement of the black iron stick, he needed at least 30 wisps of Qi.

As dusk arrived, Xu Qing saw the Dao altar again on the way to the encampment. He saw the old man sitting cross-legged and explaining the Dao of plants and vegetation.

"Night Corpse Leading Ox, also known as Poison Mountain Root Turtledove Chrysanthemum. It is the stem and root of the chrysanthemum plant. It is a wooden vine that grows in ravines, cold streams, or jungles..."

His voice was ancient and echoed in all directions. However, the number of rogue cultivators outside the Dao altar was even fewer than yesterday. There were only a dozen or so today.

Xu Qing listened for a while before leaving silently. This time, before he left, he paid a spirit stone.

Just like that, time flowed by and very soon, half a month passed.

In this half a month, more and more disciples of the human race's various forces arrived at the Absolute Beginning Separation City, causing the city to become even more lively. Moreover, there were also many more cultivators climbing the pillar.

However, the person ranked first was still Li Ziliang from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. He had already reached almost 8,000 feet. The higher he went, the more difficult it seemed to be.



During this time, he sent three more challenge letters to the Alliance. The one who he challenged was still Xu Qing.

Xu Qing ignored all of the challenge letters. During this period of time, other than occasionally purchasing some metal Qi, he spent the vast majority of his time at the Dao altar. Stopping there every day for a little while when he returned had already become a habit of his.

It was only when he heard the old man start to explain the alchemy method that he decided to sit beside the Dao altar and listen.

Back then, Grandmaster Bai had only imparted knowledge of plants to him, and not much about the art of alchemy. Xu Qing had slowly figured out various things himself.

Although he gained some proficiency, overall, he was still lacking in alchemy. Hence, he listened attentively. Such days brought a rare calm, causing Xu Qing to feel a little dazed many times as though he had returned to the scavenger campsite.

At the same time, he also sensed that the ordinary-looking old man's attainments in alchemy were extremely high. This was because Xu Qing would often feel a sense of enlightenment from a single sentence from the other party.

"The conversion method of the two extremes of yin and yang is actually one of the methods. Alchemy is vast and far-reaching. So far, the human race has more than 6,000 alchemy techniques."

"I don't think highly of learning these alchemy techniques. Because they are only external techniques, at most, I'll only impart the Yin-Yang Extreme Conversion Technique. Techniques are mostly an application of knowledge of plants and vegetation."

"All of you must remember that there are thousands of paths, but one destination."

"Therefore, the foundation is the most important in alchemy. After that, you have to figure out a suitable method on your own. After all, even the simplest combination technique is effective."

"As for the so-called refinement, in this old man's opinion, it's all to better stimulate and concoct the medicinal effects of herbs."

"Although these methods are alchemy techniques, I hope that the human cultivators who listen to my alchemy techniques can understand the essence. Only then will they have future achievements."

When Xu Qing heard all of this, his expression was in a daze. He vaguely felt that this old man in front of him had become Grandmaster Bai.

He instinctively sat up straight and remembered all of this. At the same time, as he studied, he gradually felt that he had a better understanding of alchemy.

His attainments in alchemy had clearly improved. Moreover, he had a clear systematic structure to support him.

His foundation was forged by Grandmaster Bai and was extremely solid.

After that, he self-studied and mixed many things which gradually made it chaotic. It was because of his previous foundation and his focus on the poison path that he could barely maintain his alchemy system from collapsing.

This learning session was like removing the weeds and saving the essence, causing Xu Qing to slowly have a direction in alchemy.

According to what Old Master Seventh had said when he brought Xu Qing to the Ghost Emperor Mountain back then, another 'god' had now moved into Xu Qing's heart, one that illuminated his alchemy path.

This made Xu Qing very happy. It had been a long time since he was so happy.

That increase in knowledge made him feel very fulfilled. However, accidents would always appear unexpectedly, causing Xu Qing's learning to be interrupted.

There was something he needed to deal with.

The cause of this matter was some conflicts that weren't very serious. Some disciples of Mystic Nether Sect and the Seven Blood Eyes had friction with the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. Actually, this was more or less related to Xu Qing.

During this period of time, he had ignored Li Ziliang's challenges many times, causing there to be a lot of rumors. These rumors naturally made the disciples of the Eight Sects Alliance feel uncomfortable.

Hence, it was difficult to avoid the appearance of friction.

This was the case this time. A few disciples of the Mystic Nether Sect and the Seven Blood Eyes were detained by Li Ziliang during the conflict. Moreover, he was very heavy handed.

He also informed the Eight Sects Alliance and named Xu Qing specifically to apologize if they wanted to get their disciples back.

This was clearly to force Xu Qing to fight with him.

This matter quickly spread, causing most of the disciples of the various forces at the Absolute Beginning Separation City to know. They all paid attention to this matter with the mentality of watching a show.

After all, Xu Qing hadn't accepted the challenges previously. From the perspective of those who didn't understand Xu Qing, this was clearly a cowardly act. Now that Li Ziliang had done this, they wanted to see if Xu Qing would continue to avoid the challenge.

"It's a little annoying." After Xu Qing heard about this, he frowned. He was naturally not annoyed by the Alliance's disciples but by Li Ziliang.

Xu Qing clearly saw the other party's intention to use him to establish his might and attract the attention of the Sword Holders.

This thought couldn't be said to be wrong, but to detain others and force a battle to achieve his goal was a little too much and even abnormal.

And, Xu Qing pondered deeply when things were abnormal.

For example, did the other party have other motives for challenging him many times?

However, no matter what the motive was, the other party didn't seem to be prepared. Hence, he only forced him to accept the challenge and not a life-and-death battle. This made Xu Qing feel that there was a high chance that the other party wanted to test his strength.

Regardless of whether it was the slums, the scavenger campsite, or the things he had learned in the sect, Xu Qing only had one way to deal with such a situation.

That was to not give the other party a second chance to attack. He would kill the enemy in the first battle.

What he hated the most was when he couldn't kill the enemy after the fight. After all, from his analysis, there was a high chance that the other party had ill intentions. In such a situation, hatred would definitely be formed.

If the other party continued to grow, Xu Qing would feel that they were a hidden danger.

Xu Qing took out a jade slip and transmitted his voice to the ancestor to ask.

"Ancestor, killing is not allowed within the range of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. Does this range refer to the entire territory or just this city?"

A long time later, the ancestor faintly replied.

"This city, you brat... Forget it, you can do whatever you want."

Xu Qing nodded. Outside the Dao altar, he cupped his fists toward the old man who was narrating about herbs. He knew that the other party wouldn't pay attention because during this period of time, the old man had only been narrating and hadn't asked or paid attention to anyone below.

However, Xu Qing attached great importance to etiquette. After bowing, his body swayed and he headed straight for the sky. Within moments, he arrived outside the city. He stood in the air and calmly spoke.

"Li Ziliang, do you dare to accept life-and-death battle?"

As soon as his voice rang out, the entire city and the disciples of the various forces instantly broke into an uproar.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 458: Will Seed**

Xu Qing's words exploded in the city like lightning and even caused rumbles to echo.

Most of the cultivators who heard this were shocked, especially the disciples of the various forces.

It had been too long since such a life-and-death battle had appeared in the Absolute Beginning Separation City.

Generally speaking, everyone tacitly agreed for the disciples of the various forces to challenge each other here. After all, they were all heaven's chosen of the human race. With so many of them gathered together, it was inevitable that there would be disputes to determine who was superior.

Coupled with the rules of the Sword Holding Court, the number of challenges became even more frequent. During this period of time, challengers appeared in every force.

However, there was never a life-and-death battle. Hence, Xu Qing's words were naturally like thunder to everyone.

They never expected that Xu Qing, who had been avoiding battle and was thought to be weak by many people in private, would be so murderous the moment he spoke.

This was beyond the expectations of too many people.

"How ruthless!"

"He is silent when he doesn't make a move, but the moment he makes a move, he wants to kill?!"

"Previously, I was still thinking that as a quasi-Dao Child, how could Xu Qing be so weak? Now, this is exciting!"

"It's hard to say. I hope Xu Qing isn't courting death. That Li Ziliang isn't simple!"

Discussions continued. A large number of cultivators soared into the air and looked in the direction of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect in unison, wanting to see if Li Ziliang would take the challenge.

Among the crowd that flew up, there were also disciples from the Alliance.

The cultivators of the Alliance knew more about Xu Qing and were delighted. This was even more so for the Seven Blood Eyes' disciples.

Very soon, more and more people paid attention to this matter and they were all waiting for Li Ziliang's answer.

Even the people climbing the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar got down one after another and paid attention to this battle. It could be said that Xu Qing's words instantly attracted the attention of everyone in the city.

Xu Qing was someone who enjoyed the treatment of a Dao Child in the Eight Sects Alliance. His status and identity were extraordinary.

As for Li Ziliang, it was the same. Although he wasn't the Grand Affairs' Dao Child, he was still extremely famous.

In addition, he had been in the limelight during this period of time. He had easily won more than ten challenges. The combat strength of his four palaces was astonishing. He was also always above the other climbers in the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

In fact, there were even some Sword Holders who paid attention to him, so this battle naturally became a hot topic instantly.

Amidst the countless gazes, in the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect, Li Ziliang's expression was calm. A cold glint flashed in his eyes, but he was a little hesitant.

The people outside didn't understand Xu Qing but he had specially paid attention to him and knew that the other party wasn't simple.

If it wasn't a life-and-death battle, he wouldn't have hesitated at all. After all, no matter what, there was no life-and-death crisis, and he could give it his all.

He even felt that there was a high chance that he could win.

Moreover, fighting with Xu Qing would attract even more attention. After all, the other party's status in the Eight Sects Alliance was extraordinary. If he won, he could suppress the other party and his position would soar.

He would gain a lot of reputation.

The display of his talent could also attract the attention of the Sword Holding Court and secretly increase his points.

Most importantly, someone had promised him great benefits to probe Xu Qing's depths.

He knew very well that that person valued Xu Qing's life lantern.

That person was extremely meticulous in his actions and always pursued the path of victory.

In reality, he also took a fancy to Xu Qing's life lantern.

However, he wasn't ready yet, so he was a little hesitant to take the life-and-death battle challenge.

This wasn't the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect. If he really went, it would be a life-and-death battle. With so many people watching, it was impossible for the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect and the Alliance to protect them.

However, he thought of how powerful his four Heavenly Palaces were and according to the information, Xu Qing only had three Heavenly Palaces.

Even if the latter had an emperor-level cultivation art, he would only be on par with him.

"Life-and-death battle... If I kill him and take away his life lantern, the Eight Sects Alliance and that person won't be able to say anything."

"However, since Xu Qing dared to propose a life-and-death battle, he must have something he's confident in. The outcome of this battle is hard to say..." Li Ziliang wasn't stupid. His analysis was very thorough. It was just that he was more or less caught between a rock and a hard place now.

After all, he was the one who had proposed many challenges previously. If he didn't accept the life-and-death battle, he would definitely lose all his face and the reputation he had gained in the past would instantly dissipate.

"Although there are unknown dangers, it's still an opportunity."

"Besides, other than Zhang Siyun, that sinister, cunning, cold-hearted, and almost inhumane person, I have never encountered another person who could avoid my trump card."

Li Ziliang continued to ponder for a while and the discussions outside gradually increased. As all kinds of rumors faintly echoed, killing intent flashed in Li Ziliang's eyes.

He knew that he couldn't hesitate anymore and sneered again.

"Xu Qing, since you have a death wish, you can't blame me!"

He flew out of his tent. The moment he stepped into the sky, the gazes of countless cultivators in Absolute Beginning Separation City focused on him.

Under the gazes of everyone, Li Ziliang transformed into a rainbow and headed straight for Xu Qing.

From afar, he saw Xu Qing standing in the air outside the city.

He wore a purple shirt and had long hair. He had a demonic appearance, a cold expression, and calm eyes.

All of this caused Li Ziliang to narrow his eyes. His speed didn't decrease as he headed straight for Xu Qing. Just as he was about to rush out of the city, his speed suddenly increased by two times.

When he arrived, his speed was already very fast. Now that he suddenly increased his speed, it formed a sense of surprise, especially since this speed was something he had never displayed when fighting others before.

At that moment, his speed soared explosively. His entire person transformed into an afterimage and rushed out of the city, approaching Xu Qing. He then lifted his right hand and pressed down fiercely.

Four Heavenly Palaces manifested behind him.

The shapes of these four Heavenly Palaces were similar, but they were different from ordinary Heavenly Palaces. They were in the shape of a ladder and were completely made of crystal. They were filled with runes and emitted a resplendent light.

As Li Ziliang pressed down, the four Heavenly Palaces instantly appeared above Xu Qing's head.

They were piled together. From afar, the four Heavenly Palaces overlapped and seemed to form a crystal pagoda.

They instantly suppressed Xu Qing.

All of this happened in the blink of an eye and this was Li Ziliang's trump card when coupled with his speed.

As the Heavenly Palaces landed, Li Ziliang suddenly spread out his divine sense and transmitted his voice to Xu Qing, saying something that only Xu Qing could hear.

"Xu Qing, I've been looking for you for a long time. Do you still remember the hatred between us..."

These words echoed in Xu Qing's heart. Xu Qing was expressionless. He didn't know the other party and was certain that he had never seen him before. Otherwise, if the other party had any hatred for him, he would have been put on the bamboo slip long ago.

Hence, he didn't care what the other party said. At that moment, the four Heavenly Palaces above whistled down and smashed fiercely toward him. The power of the four palaces erupted completely.

The surroundings trembled. The pagoda formed by the four Heavenly Palaces drowned Xu Qing's figure.

Countless bolts of lightning formed around it that connected to the ground like threads. The pagoda kept on smashing toward the ground.

However, the pagoda suddenly stopped in mid-air. As its body trembled, an earth-shattering bang echoed.

Amidst the rumbling, the pagoda collapsed at a speed visible to the naked eye and shattered into countless pieces that shot in all directions.

It revealed Xu Qing's figure in the air and the nine layers of waves that flipped the sky around him.

Waves after waves spread out in all directions. Xu Qing, who was standing on the waves, was like a sea god.

A roar rang out. Behind Xu Qing, above the waves, the Golden Crow was like the sun rising from the sea, emitting a golden light above Xu Qing.

Although its body was black in the golden light, it had already grown 19 rainbow-colored phoenix tails that danced in the air. Wherever it passed, burning phoenix feathers would circle the world.

Li Ziliang's expression changed. He knew that Xu Qing was very strong but it was only at this moment that he truly sensed the berserk power on Xu Qing's body.

He felt that the latter was infinitely close to five palaces combat strength.

'Damn it, why didn't my voice transmission plant any doubts in his mind!'

Almost at the instant he looked at Xu Qing, Xu Qing moved.

He rushed straight toward Li Ziliang. The Golden Crow spread its wings and the raging waves followed.

Li Ziliang's pupils contracted and he rapidly retreated, performing a series of hand seals with both hands.

"Immortal art, True Spirit Ice Spear!"

Dazzling ice spears manifested in the surroundings and whistled toward Xu Qing.

They tried to obstruct Xu Qing but were destroyed by the Golden Crow.

"Immortal art, Fire Omen!"

In that instant, a sea of fire formed in all directions, transforming into a huge fire palm that swept toward Xu Qing. However, it was drowned by the furious waves.

"Immortal art, Divination of the Four Palaces!"

The shattered Heavenly Palace fragments in the sky all blurred and dissipated. After that, four more Heavenly Palaces appeared in the air and lined up. Two were side by side in front and two were vertically behind.

It was like a fragmented divination array that seemed to be analyzing and deducing.

This wasn't the end. With a wave of Li Ziliang's hand, a huge mirror appeared below Xu Qing.

This mirror was illusory and countless blurry figures appeared in the mirror. They couldn't be seen clearly but they seemed to contain some strange power, causing one's gaze to involuntarily look over. The more they couldn't see clearly, the more they wanted to see.

After doing this, Li Ziliang raised his right hand and quickly performed a series of hand seals, as though he was calculating something.

The many figures in the mirror also began to become clearer.

At the next instant, Xu Qing punched open the Heavenly Palaces, and Li Ziliang's expression suddenly changed drastically and he spat out a mouthful of blood. He looked at Xu Qing in disbelief and cried out involuntarily.

"I know why you don't recognize me. Your body... you were actually..."

As he spoke, he looked like he had seen a ghost. He suddenly turned around and fled into the distance.

The instant he fled, Xu Qing grabbed.

The direction Xu Qing grabbed wasn't where Li Ziliang was fleeing but behind him!

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 459: Establishing Power**

A cold glint appeared in Xu Qing's eyes. As he lifted his right hand, a figure was grabbed by the neck from the void behind him and pulled out fiercely.

The figure struggled but it was useless. At the next instant, it revealed itself clearly. It was still Li Ziliang but his face was rapidly turning black.

Xu Qing's hand had poison.

The moment he touched Li Ziliang, the other party was already poisoned and was rotting.

At that moment, the fleeing Li Ziliang's body turned blurry and dissipated.

"How did you know I was here! Impossible! Moreover, you don't have any doubts even now. You... what exactly did you experience in the past? How can your determination be so firm!!"

Li Ziliang, whose neck was grabbed by Xu Qing, revealed horror and disbelief in his eyes as he cried out involuntarily.

If it were the opponents he had encountered before, most of their expressions would have changed and they would have chased after him regardless of the cost to silence him. After all, everyone had secrets, and it would be obvious to them that their secrets had been seen through.



His words were half-truths which could easily make the others be filled with doubts. When others heard them, they would instinctively have distracting thoughts. Their attention would also be on his fleeing figure and they would chase after him.

This was his goal!

Li Ziliang didn't have any deduction power and didn't know any divination techniques at all. However, the spells of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect were mysterious and focused on domain.

However, he hadn't cultivated the domain yet and had only reached the level of will.

The so-called will wasn't a literal meaning but an even more complicated one. The word 'will' encompassed emotions.

To be precise, what he cultivated was doubt. As long as the enemy had doubts when facing him, he could instantly sense them and turn them into his trump card that could burn the enemy's soul.

In the past, he had used this move to kill many people. Other than when he used it against the Dao Child Zhang Siyun, no one else had been able to avoid it.

He originally thought that today would be the same. As long as Xu Qing had distracting thoughts, he could unleash his trump card. As long as Xu Qing rushed out and targeted his clone, he could secretly attack. Coupled with his trump card, it would be a fatal blow.

However, today, he encountered a second failure.

He survived the first time, but he wouldn't be able to survive this failure.

Xu Qing didn't have the habit of explaining to the enemy. At that moment, amidst Li Ziliang's struggle, his right hand instantly turned transparent and directly entered the other party's Heavenly Palace. With a pull, he took out four crystal-like golden cores.

An ear splitting scream spread in all directions. At this moment of life-and-death crisis, despair appeared in Li Ziliang's eyes as he spoke anxiously.

"Someone asked me to probe you. That's why I challenged you previously. Xu Qing, don't kill me. You just have to let me leave and I'll tell you who it is..."

Xu Qing's expression was calm. A dagger manifested in his left hand and he sliced open Li Ziliang's neck.

Blood splattered everywhere and flowed down.

It stained his clothes and scattered on the ground. Compared to the white snow, the pool of blood was very eye-catching.

Li Ziliang clutched his neck and looked at Xu Qing in a daze. His eyes were filled with disbelief, as though he couldn't understand why Xu Qing didn't stop and let him speak.

After all, if it was anyone else, they would at least ask.

Although he didn't dare to say who that person was, he could deliberately mystify things and say other names to lure the disaster away. Moreover, he had already thought of who to refer, such as Saintly Star's father or Xu Qing's fellow disciples.

It would naturally be best if he succeeded. If he didn't, he could also use this to exchange for the other party's doubts and complete the fatal blow he hadn't been able to carry out.

However, Xu Qing actually didn't have any intention of listening, causing all his plans to be for naught.

Hence, at this moment, resentment appeared in his eyes. However, this resentment had no roots. In the end, as his body fell, everything turned into eternal regret.

Actually, he already regretted it.

He regretted being greedy for the benefits that person had given him and helping the other party probe Xu Qing. He challenged him many times and even detained his fellow disciples and demanded him to apologize, just to force him to fight.

He regretted being greedy and thinking that he had a chance of winning this battle.

He regretted even more. He shouldn't have cared about his face and accepted this life-and-death battle.

However, this still couldn't compare to his confusion. Even until his death, he didn't know why Xu Qing didn't have the slightest doubt from the start to the end.

Now, everything had become regret and the past.

The world was pitch-black in front of him, as though someone had closed a curtain for him.

The scene outside the city was quiet.

Only sporadic snowflakes were stirred up by the wind and slowly fell from the sky, floating on the corpse and covering the blood.

Very soon... the blood could no longer be seen. Only Li Ziliang's corpse remained motionless.

Xu Qing's expression was calm. He had heard the other party's words and both believed and didn't believe it.

He believed that someone had indeed instigated it because this matched his previous analysis.

However, he didn't believe anything else.

At the end of the day, it was because Xu Qing trusted too few people. Hence, most of the time, he only trusted himself.

This was because it was obvious that the person who could arrange for Li Ziliang to probe was someone who the latter couldn't refuse. If the latter really said the other party's name, even if Li Ziliang survived, his future would be very miserable.

Hence, there was a high chance that the name he said would be fake.

Xu Qing felt that it wasn't worth it to exchange a fake name for a life.

This was his personality and habit. When he sensed danger but couldn't find the owner of that malicious intent, breaking their claws and teeth in a ruthless manner was also a form of deterrence.

As for the answer to Li Ziliang's doubts, it was actually very simple.

Xu Qing believed in himself, his judgment, and his memories.

"Xu Qing, I've been looking for you for a long time. Do you still remember the hatred between us..."

This was Li Ziliang's first sentence. However, he didn't know that Xu Qing's enemies were all engraved on the bamboo slip. He often took a look at it and wouldn't forget his enemies even if he forgot everything else.

"I know why you don't recognize me. Your body... you were actually..."

This second sentence could not stir up the slightest ripple in Xu Qing's emotions. This was because it had become a habit for him to hide secrets.

This gave him confidence in his secrets. Unless the other party directly pointed it out, he wouldn't be moved at all.

At the end of the day, it wasn't that Li Ziliang's will seed technique wasn't powerful enough, but he didn't understand Xu Qing and couldn't say the words that could truly stir Xu Qing's heart.

"Flashy," Xu Qing said calmly. This was the only thing he said since the battle began.

After a short period of silence, an uproar broke out in Absolute Beginning Separation City. Waves of exclamations rang out from the mouths of the disciples of the various forces who were standing in the air.

"Dead?"

"This... this is too fast! He shattered the Heavenly Palaces and slit his throat with a single strike!"

"He really dares!!"

"We can't afford to offend this Xu Qing. This person is really ruthless. He killed Li Ziliang the moment he attacked... How ruthless! As expected of the only person in the Eight Sects Alliance who enjoys the treatment of a Dao Child!"

Gasps continuously rang out and discussions erupted. The disciples from the various forces and rogue cultivators here were all shocked.

They were shocked by Xu Qing's speed and ruthlessness. They couldn't see through the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art but they could see the withering of Li Ziliang's corpse and the ear splitting scream before he died.

This allowed them to imagine how painful it was for Li Ziliang at that time.

The coldness of that strike caused one to instinctively feel a chill in their hearts. It was as though Xu Qing, who was standing there, had become a fiend in their eyes.

All of this caused everyone's expressions to turn solemn, especially the Golden Core cultivators. They looked at Xu Qing with deep fear.

Even the experts leading the teams from the various forces paid attention to this battle. Many of them looked at the bases of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect and the Eight Sects Alliance.

The Grand Affairs Immortal Sect was silent.

It was the same for the Eight Sects Alliance.

They were all waiting. Even though this matter was clear and there had been precedents before, they still had to wait for the Sword Holding Court to give their conclusion.

Not long later, a cold voice rang out from above the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

"What a daring and decisive kid!"

"If it was a peaceful era, with your personality, you definitely wouldn't be able to live for long. But now... what my Sword Holding Court needs is such a wolf cub!"

"The Seven Blood Eyes has produced a good seedling."

"Kid, I'm looking forward to your results in the assessment!"

The voice echoed in all directions, and Xue Lianzi's laughter rang out from the Eight Sects Alliance.

"Xu Qing, thank the lord for his appreciation."

Xu Qing felt a little hesitant about this evaluation of daring. A guess rose in his mind and he bowed to the sky.

"Thank you, Lord!"

As the Sword Holding Court had spoken, this matter was also decided. After all, although there had been no deaths until now in this assessment, it had happened in the past.

Although the Sword Holding Court didn't tacitly agree or advocate it, if there were deaths outside the city, it wouldn't be considered a violation of the rules.

Xue Lianzi knew this, and so did the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect.

The thoughts of a large sect wouldn't be shallow. Very soon, cultivators from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect arrived and took away Li Ziliang's corpse.

Xu Qing also stepped into the Absolute Beginning Separation City again. However, this time, his step was different from before.

Previously, his words and actions weren't paid too much attention. Most of them were private discussions about him avoiding the challenges. Now, wherever he passed, he received reverence and people made way for him.

No one thought that he was avoiding the challenges anymore. Instead, they understood why he had rejected those challenges previously. It was because the eagle was naturally not interested in the challenge from the sparrow.

On the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar, in front of the Sword Holding Court's palace, two Sword Holders stood there. One of them was an old man and the other was a middle-aged man. At that moment, they were looking at the ground below and their gazes were on Xu Qing.

If Xu Qing was here, he would be able to recognize these two.

The old man was one of the three people who fought against the Spirit Venerable Nether Fairy back then. The middle-aged man also appeared on the campaign against Three Spirits Suppression Mountain. He was the mighty and extraordinary second stage Nihilism cultivator who fought against Spirit Venerable Embryonic Light.

"Is it this kid?" This imposing and extraordinary middle-aged man was also wearing an official's uniform. He glanced at Xu Qing on the ground and calmly spoke.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 460: Ghost Emperor Exterminates Resentment (1)**

"Lord, it's this kid. His name is Xu Qing."

"In addition, he has a companion. After investigation, it's his senior brother, Chen Erniu. As for the third person, it's also clear. She's the holy maiden of the Litu Dao Altar of the Yinghuang Province. Her name is Qing Qiu. She's on the way and will arrive in a few days."

A strange expression appeared on the old man's face as he continued speaking.

"What these three people did hastened the madness of Nether Fairy. So, according to my judgment, they should be the people Nether Fairy hates the most now."

The middle-aged man nodded.

"There's no hurry. Let's try it ourselves first. If we still can't make Nether Fairy's emotions collapse and allow us to successfully search her soul, we'll bring the three of them over to stimulate her."

"Also, this Xu Qing isn't bad and his temperament isn't bad either. If he has the ability to become a Sword Holder, he can be considered a good seedling."

"The county is preparing to reactivate the Ancient Immortal Forbidden to deal with the signs of frequent recovery from the various provinces. Hence, you can add more bloodshed to this assessment. The times are different. We want wolf cubs, not domestic dogs."

When the old man heard the words 'Ancient Immortal Forbidden', his expression changed.

"Reactivate the Ancient Immortal Forbidden? Isn't there a rumor that an unknown god is sleeping there?"

"That's right. The world thinks that the calamity in the Wanggu Continent came just from the fragmented-face of the god in the sky, but they don't know that... according to the records, in the era

where the ancient sovereigns and rulers had no choice but to leave, there was not only the fragmented-face which arrived, but there were also many who hid themselves."

"I wonder what They are waiting for. Since the county has the intention to reactivate it, they might also be under orders to verify it." The middle-aged cultivator shook his head and turned to leave.

Only the old man stood on the spot with a complicated expression. He sighed softly and his body slowly disappeared.

Seven days passed.

During these seven days, Xu Qing returned to his previous life. He headed to the Dao altar every day and listened attentively to the lessons there to learn more about herbs and vegetation.

No one challenged him anymore. This caused Xu Qing to become the second person among the various forces who no one dared to fight.

During this period, the Dao Child of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect also returned.

His return stirred up multicolored light that filled the sky. It was as though he had mastered his spell and couldn't completely restrain it. Hence, he attracted countless attention. Xu Qing also looked at the sky.

He sensed a hint of pressure from the multicolored light outside the Dao Child's body.

Even after this Dao Child returned, everything in the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect was normal. He didn't do anything because of Li Ziliang's death. It was as though in his mind, Li Ziliang was irrelevant.

"Is it him?" Xu Qing fell silent. He wasn't sure but this didn't affect his vigilance.

In addition, in these seven days, Xu Qing's greatest gain was his improvement in alchemy.

During a lecture, the old man from the Dao altar proposed a concept. The other party directly said that this concept wasn't mature and could only be considered a support.

That was identifying unknown herbs.

Vein analysis, observing the herb's habits, the environment of the herb, its effects, and determining their nature with their effects. This series of identification methods opened up an unknown train of thought for Xu Qing.

He recalled the herb knowledge he had and discovered that although this method of identification wasn't completely correct, it was at least 80% correct.

Although the slightest difference in the path of alchemy was the difference between heaven and earth, to alchemy cultivators, having more methods of identifying was extremely useful in using new herbs.

Other than that, Xu Qing also heard the term divine herb from the old man on the Dao altar.

Xu Qing was neither familiar nor unfamiliar with divine herbs. He was unfamiliar because there weren't many records of them in Grandmaster Bai's books. He wasn't unfamiliar because ever since he came into contact with plants and vegetation, he had been searching for a divine herb.

However, even after Captain Lei passed away, and even until now, he still couldn't find it.

That was the heavenfate flower that could extend one's life for a lifetime.

"The heavenfate flower, also known as the life-extension blaze and the divine spirit grass. It is a mutated variant of the divine-class plant, compound wood. According to records, there are a total of 73 variants, but only the first variant can be used in medicine. It grows in any area within a forbidden zone, but there are no rules to dictate where it might be found. It is extremely rare.

"Its effects consist of regenerating broken limbs and even reigniting one's life force. Other than soul injuries, it can cure everything."

The old man sitting cross-legged on the Dao altar in front of him calmly spoke and imparted his teachings to the seven to eight cultivators who were listening to his lecture.

To him, the knowledge of herbs and alchemy was both his and the human race's. Hence, even though not many people listened, he still continued to preach the Dao.

In fact, in the early years, he would travel in all directions and spread knowledge of herbs and alchemy in different human territories. However, he was getting old and his lifespan was near its end, so he didn't go out anymore.

Instead, he stayed in the Sword Holding Court and taught knowledge of herbs and alchemy to the rogue cultivators here.

Because he had seen too many students, he didn't pay too much attention to these cultivators who came and went.

"At the end of the day, the so-called divine plants are a change in life level. In fact, this old man has been studying a topic all these years. It's plants. They seem to be more suitable for this world after the god arrived than flesh beings."

"Hence, this old man often thinks that perhaps the divine plant will be the direction to study the god."

When Xu Qing heard this, his body trembled. He suddenly thought of Illuminate and Bai Li back then.

Bai Li had a spirit plant on him. In the end, he fused with the spirit plant and erupted with a certain amount of divinity fluctuations. After that, he thought of Saintly Star.